

HOUSE RESOLUTION 322

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to recognize Linda L. Williams on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Linda L. Williams is one such estimable person who took her well-deserved retirement from RISE Foundation on May 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Ms. Williams assumed the position of president and chief executive officer of RISE (Responsibility. Initiative. Solution. Empowerment.) Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to improve the community by providing financial literacy tools and incentives to help families build assets and make better financial choices; and

WHEREAS, Linda Williams played an important role in the establishment of the Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center, which is a joint effort of the Shelby County Trustee's Office and RISE Foundation and the first of its kind in the county; and

WHEREAS, before joining RISE, Ms. Williams rendered sterling service as the district administrator for the Tennessee Department of Human Services, District VIII, which covers Shelby County and includes the City of Memphis; she began her career in human services as a welfare specialist in the Food Stamp Program in 1972 and, over the course of her career, worked in various levels of State government in family assistance and child welfare services; and

WHEREAS, Linda Williams is an important part of her community who serves on a number of boards and advisory councils to ensure the interests of low-income families are kept at the forefront of all planning and funding issues; and

WHEREAS, for her tireless efforts, Ms. Williams has received numerous awards and accolades, including the 2005 "E" Award for her extraordinary contributions to government from the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, the 2019 MLK Luminary Award from the City of Memphis, and the 2020 Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award from Leadership Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Linda Williams holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a Master of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Williams exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Linda Williams has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and a grateful public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Linda L. Williams our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.